

SLOT MACHINE DISPLAYING TWO GAMES USING NO

ADDITIONAL HARDWARE

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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The invention relates to a bonus feature in a slot machine. This bonus feature may be used in stand-alone slot machines as well as linked slot machines.

10 The preferred embodiment is directed to a system of linked gaming machines. In one embodiment, each linked gaming machines operates like a conventional machine where the generation and display of certain combinations of symbols within a first group of

15 combinations provide awards to the individual players whose machines generate such combinations. In addition to this normal mode of play, a bonus feature is added where the generation and display of combinations of symbols within a second group of combinations are used

20 in the awarding of a bonus. In such a feature, the generation of a combination of symbols within the second group of combinations is used in a bonus award game. The display on each machine may be a video display that displays the main game as well as the

25 bonus game. Since both games can be run using the same electrical circuitry (e.g., memory and a processor), no additional hardware is needed. A single machine, as opposed to linked machines, may incorporate all elements to play the main game and the bonus game.

30 This is equivalent to a single machine in a linked system being operated.